

## ABSTRACT

An apparatus for scheduling multi-service category ATM cell traffic through contention points in an ATM network is provided. The service categories have predefined delivery priorities according to quality of service guarantees. To satisfy these priorities while maintaining fair treatment to low priority connections, aging markers are incrementally assigned to queued cells and these markers in combination with priority data are used to determine which connection is serviced next. A method of scheduling traffic through the network is also disclosed.